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From Sevenoaks Town Council for the community of Sevenoaks

Winter 2022

From the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Councillor Dr Merylyn Canet

Welcome to the New Year 2022.

This is such a challenging time for most of us and there continues to be anxiety about what will happen next.

We have all been unable to do what we want to do because of something outside of our control.

I have missed the chance encounters, accidental collisions and earwiggling with friends and acquaintances that used to make my life have meaning and fun.

Good deeds offered with love and received with gratitude, to many of our fellow citizens both known and strangers.

It is this generosity of spirit that exists in so many people in Sevenoaks that makes it a great place in which to live.

I would like to thank all the people who volunteer their time and skills to the many different groups in our community. They give kindness and hope to many who might otherwise feel isolated and lonely. Many volunteers enable the Stag theatre complex to operate so successfully bringing much music, comedy, magic, films and theatre to our residents and people who visit Sevenoaks from further afield.

The large number of sports clubs, mostly run by volunteers, bring opportunities for keen youngsters and many older people to excel in their chosen activity, or just have healthy exercise and fun. Thousands of our fellow citizens benefit from the time given by the coaches, organisers and parents to make these clubs work so well.

This teamwork extends to the Sevenoaks Town Council, its

staff and the unpaid elected Councillors, including our Youth Councillors.

We are all working together to get the best possible use of our shared resources. I trust that when the pandemic recedes we will continue to use the lessons that we have learned from this time to enable us to continue to make Sevenoaks the best that it can possibly be for all of us.



To talk of the future is only useful if it leads to action now.

We have been working towards cherishing our natural environment, planting hedges and native trees, enhancing green spaces both for walkers and wildlife.

The right trees in the right places can contribute to Greening Sevenoaks.

After our success in the In Bloom 2021 competition, we now have to start again, so please come and help us do even better.

Little steps together reducing Sevenoaks's carbon footprint can contribute to make big changes for the planet.

EF Schumacher was a practical thinker who had a lot of respect for the power of ordinary people and faith in them that they could make the right decisions if they had the means to do it.

Shared hope and kindness can guide us into enabling those who need help and helpers to work together.

So whatever your interests or time available, come and get involved. Together we can make our Town the best to live, learn and work in.



**Sevenoaks
Annual Town Public Meeting
Monday 14th March 2022**

Bat & Ball Centre
Cramptons Road
Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN

Livestreamed on YouTube:
[Sevenoaks Town Council](#)

**Your opportunity to have your say on matters
relating to Sevenoaks**

Meeting starts at 7:00PM

Free refreshments from 6:00PM.

6:30PM – 7:00PM

Opportunity to talk to the Mayor, Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet,
and your local Councillors, before the meeting starts

**Please submit any questions you would like to ask the Town Council by Monday
7th March 2022 to: council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk**

Sevenoaks Town Council to present its Annual Report 2021/2022

Grants to Local Organisations

Climate Change Initiatives

Sevenoaks Neighbourhood Development Plan & Referendum Update

Stag Theatre Annual Report Presentation

For more details of the Annual Town Public Meeting please contact
Sevenoaks Town Council:

By telephone: 01732 459953

By email: council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

To view [Agenda](#) go to: www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council reveals its Green Community Investment Plan

In November 2019 Sevenoaks Town Council resolved to make the following its No 1 Priority:

- To recognise the Government and KCC declarations for aiming for Zero Carbon;
- To integrate this within the vision and throughout the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) and within the Town Council's general operation (list of initiatives agreed).

At a meeting in November 2021, Councillors met to review its original 2019 climate change initiatives and considered additional and new proposals. It was agreed that the Town Council should communicate more to the public about the practical local initiatives it was already undertaking and its plans for the future, and that the Town Council should take a leadership role, providing information about simple measures that can be taken in helping the local community to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle to help the planet.

In 2014 Sevenoaks Town Council set out its first ambitious £4m Community Investment Plan to restore and improve community facilities. Building on the success of the Community Investment Plan a second was produced in

2019 which increased the investment to £6.5m.

The Sevenoaks Town Council Green Community Investment Plan here moves away from primarily investing in community buildings and facilities and towards investing in the local environment and making Sevenoaks greener.

Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet said: *"The Green Investment Plan for Sevenoaks was approved for wider consultation with residents and businesses at the Christmas Town Council meeting on Monday. At the same meeting a brilliantly delivered and researched presentation by students from Sevenoaks started the meeting and included ideas for making the centre of the Town more people friendly and the Stag attractive to younger residents. Everyone has the opportunity to contribute to the Green Investment Plan and I hope they will. Action is needed now to protect our environment."*

Sevenoaks Town Council is now reviewing comments received from the community

Visit sevenoakstown.gov.uk for updates on the progress of the Plan.



Sevenoaks Town awarded £80,000 grants for play area improvements

Sevenoaks Town Council has been awarded grants totalling £80,000 for improvements to the play areas at Hillingdon Rise and at Julian's Meadow.

Sevenoaks Town Council's goal is to create free spaces where children and parents can go to experience the outdoors and escape the rushed pace of life.

The grants awarded by Enovert Community Trust will be used to update, refurbish and extend the play areas at each site.

In line with the Town Council's commitment to finding sustainable solutions and protecting the environment, some existing equipment will be refurbished. The improved play

areas and additional equipment will cater to a wider range of ages and abilities. The projects will commence in May 2022 and are scheduled in to open in early summer.

Enovert Community Trust is a grant-making organisation which is funded by landfill tax credits. It supports projects in the vicinity of landfill sites, and projects that benefit and make a positive impact to the community.

The Chairman of the Open Spaces and Leisure Committee, Cllr Nicholas Busvine OBE, said: *"A very big thank you to the Enovert Community Trust for £80,000 grant funding. Wonderful news to end the year!"*

The Vine in Sevenoaks flies the flag as one of the country's best parks

In a record-breaking year for the Green Flag Award, as the scheme marks its Silver Jubilee, The Vine is one of 2127 celebrating success!

After almost two years that have seen our parks and green spaces play a vital role for people through lockdowns as a place to relax, exercise and meet friends and family safely, the news that The Vine has achieved the Green Flag Award is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that make the green space a great space that everyone can enjoy.



The Vine joins parks and green spaces as diverse as the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, Woodhouse Park in Peterlee and Chiswick Old Cemetery in London.

The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

The Chairman of Sevenoaks Town Council's Open Spaces Committee said: 'The Green Flag award for The Vine is excellent news, and follows hard on the heels of the Gold standard obtained in the South & South East In Bloom contest. This is a wonderful achievement by Town Council staff and local volunteers. Thank you all.'



Sevenoaks Town celebrates more awards

Sevenoaks Town receives more awards and maintains high standards of public health.

RHS Community Awards

The results of the 2021 RHS Community Awards are in, and Sevenoaks Town has been awarded Achievement Awards for work within the community. The Community Awards' objectives are to support, transform, and connect communities through the power of horticulture.

The categories were:

Nourishing your community: *Using food growing as a tool to support communities*

Planting with purpose: *Creatively using plants to address community challenges*

Cultivating your community: *Strengthening communities and building links between diverse groups of people*

Loo of the Year Award

Platinum Award

Bat & Ball Station platform public toilet was awarded Platinum for the Loo of the Year Award. The Awards have a simple objective: to encourage the highest possible standards in all 'away from home' washrooms.

Sevenoaks Town Council is delighted with the results and gives special thanks to all the businesses, organisations and volunteers who help and make the town such a success.

Local business discovers perfect volunteering opportunity at the Stag in Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks Town Council's request for people to help with gardening in the Town has not gone unnoticed.

One volunteer, Bonnie Tarling, an employee of Solicitors Thackray Williams in Sevenoaks, has stepped forward to provide regular gardening help at the Stag and, more specifically, outside the Plaza Suite.

The hope is that this will become regular work keeping ahead of the weeds and slowly improving the whole site. The Open Spaces team at Sevenoaks Town Council will work closely with Bonnie and other volunteers to support with removal of weeds, supplying of plants, and providing guidance with planting and design.

Volunteers are asked to give their time and energy and get involved with a range of different projects around Sevenoaks Town including practical tasks like clean-ups and planting, general gardening and weeding, and litter picking.

The request and need for volunteers in 2022 is needed even more than before to help Sevenoaks bloom during the special Queen's Platinum Jubilee Year.

Lloyds Bank employees volunteer in historic Sevenoaks Common

Sevenoaks Town Council is grateful to the staff from Lloyds Bank who recently volunteered on Sevenoaks Common.

On Tuesday 9 November 2021, a group of 30 volunteers from Lloyds Bank planted approximately 150 saplings of Hornbeam and Blackthorn in an area of ancient woodland in Sevenoaks Common.

The volunteering day, organised by **Employee Volunteering**, worked to plant understorey trees to thicken the boundary, whilst also providing dense cover for small birds and mammals. This work continued the valuable work carried out by the Greensand Project volunteers two years ago, which saw the removal of invasive Rhododendron and Cherry Laurel. The trees were provided free of charge by the Woodland Trust.

Employee Volunteering helps companies develop, implement, and deliver dynamic and rewarding employee volunteering programmes globally. They can offer physical team volunteering opportunities for teams of five to over 1,000 colleagues at multiple locations on one day or across the year.

* Sevenoaks Common is owned and managed by Sevenoaks Town Council

If you or your organisation would like more information about similar projects in Sevenoaks, please contact osl@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or telephone 01732 459953.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

We are starting to make plans for community events to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. To mark her 70 years on the throne, we can all look forward to a special four-day bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2 June to Sunday 5 June 2022.

If you are a local organisation or group that would like to put on a community event or have a specific project in mind to mark this milestone, we would love to hear from you. This includes any planting projects that would contribute to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

We will be happy to help spread the word about your project/event in the next edition of *Town Crier*.

Please email council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk to share your plans with us.



Volunteers Wanted

Sevenoaks District Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG) is looking for people to volunteer to help represent diverse communities across Sevenoaks District and to assist Kent Police with its work in supporting victims of crime.

Residents have the opportunity to join the IPAG, which acts as a critical friend to Kent Police, Sevenoaks District, West Division.

The group is totally independent of the force and helps improve the services police provide to people from different backgrounds.

It includes volunteers who can offer their perspectives around issues such as race, sexual orientation, disability, age and gender.

The IPAG provides a platform and an opportunity to engage, consult and discuss the impact of policing on communities in your local district.

Members are able to share feedback to Kent Police from the communities and local areas they represent, as well as give advice and support during critical incidents.

The IPAG also includes people from minority groups and diverse backgrounds; volunteers have the opportunity to bring along independent thoughts and views to which Kent Police will listen and respond.

If you are interested in joining the Sevenoaks District IPAG, please email DiversityAcademy@kent.police.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council Precept 2022/23

As a precautionary measure, Sevenoaks Town Council used its Christmas Council meeting to set a Council Tax precept for 2022/23.

Cllr Tony Clayton, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee says: *“To make sure that it can continue to deliver services through next year, Sevenoaks Town Council used its Christmas Council meeting to set a Council Tax precept for 2022/23. Although the decision isn’t required for another six weeks, it has to be made by Councillors meeting in person, which could be difficult if Covid continues to grow in January.*

“After hard work to look at a range of options by our officers, the Town Council has agreed an increase which will raise its tax for each household by just over 3.2%. For a Band D house that means an increase from £128.50 per year to £132.67, a rise of 8 pence per week.

“As the Bank of England expects inflation to hit 6% by April this won’t be easy, but Councillors didn’t think it was reasonable to expect taxpayers to bear all the costs at a time when many are still suffering continuing income loss from the pandemic.

“With careful management, and by promoting the Council’s community assets at the newly reopened Bat & Ball Centre, and its cafes at The Vine and Bat and Ball station, we aim to deliver all the Council’s services to local residents and have a contingency which could cover possible risks. We also have capital reserves left after making the major investments at Bat & Ball, on play areas and sports pitches, on the Neighbourhood Plan, Stag, and the Business Hub, to start supporting some of the Green Investment Plan initiatives just published.

“Our aim is to do all this without having to dip into the Council’s revenue reserves, which are now moving back towards a safe level.”

Full details and figures relating to the budget set are available on the Council’s website sevenoakstown.gov.uk within the Council Agenda for 6 December 2021.

A copy of the Green Community Investment Plan is also available on the website.

<https://www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk/UserFiles/Files/Documents/STC%20Green%20Community%20Investment%20Plan%202021.pdf>

Sevenoaks Town Council invited Hope, the Suffragette made from Lego, to visit Sevenoaks from 24 November – 15 December 2021



In 2018 Sevenoaks Town Council placed a request with the House of Commons for Hope, the Suffragette made from Lego, to visit Sevenoaks to commemorate the centenary of women receiving the vote. Unfortunately, this was delayed until the end of



2021 due to the pandemic.

Standing at 170cm tall and consisting of over 30,000 bricks, Hope was built in 2018 to help tell the story of woman's suffrage. Celebrating the success in getting the vote for women, the impressive Lego statue will be travelling to every region and nation in the UK by 2028.

We are grateful to the Stag for agreeing to display Hope in the foyer enabling as many people as possible to see and have a photograph taken with her.

Welcome to Sevenoaks *Philharmonic* Choir



'The Phil' is well and truly back after the Covid-enforced layoff. We've entered our 125th year with a sparkling concert – first for two years – Christmas Oratorio and Vivaldi Gloria – such a joy to be back singing again – for us and the audience, who clearly had a good time as well!

We are a friendly choir who enjoy ourselves in rehearsal and give high-quality concert performances. In the post-Covid period we had a great influx of new singers and continue to look for more – especially that endangered species – Tenors!

So if you are newly working from home in Sevenoaks, or want to return to singing the best of the classical choral canon blended with newer and exciting pieces, then please see the 'Join Us' page for details of membership. sevenoaks-philharmonic.org.uk

We sing a varied repertoire of sacred and secular music, accompanied by the Sevenoaks Philharmonic Orchestra and professional soloists, all under the musical direction of Robyn Sevastos.

We perform three concerts each year: in March/April, in June and in November/December, with venues including St Nicholas Church, The Pamoja Hall, Sevenoaks School, Trinity School or the Stag Theatre providing a range of acoustics to match the musical programme. Our summer concert is usually given on the opening weekend of the Sevenoaks Summer Festival and in alternate years this is a collaboration with Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra, conducted in rotation by Darrell Davison and Robyn Sevastos.

Our next concert

Sunday 27 March

Pamoja Hall, Sevenoaks School

Mozart Requiem and Haydn Nelson Mass

Please see sevenoaks-philharmonic.org.uk for details and tickets

John Larnar

Chairman, Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society

The Mayor of Sevenoaks
Councillor Dr. Merilyn Canet

Invites you to a **QUIZ NIGHT**



Saturday 26th March 7:00pm for 7:30 Start
at Bat & Ball Centre, Offord Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5DN

Teams of 8 (If you don't have a team we will find some team mates)

Tickets £15.00

(price of ticket includes fish/chicken & chip supper or
vegetarian option)

Pay Bar

 Raffle and lots of fun

Proceeds will go to the Mayor's Charity Fund

For further details please contact:

office@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council
Bradbourne Vale Road
Sevenoaks
Kent
TN13 3QG
01732 459 953

Sevenoaks





SEVENOAKS MARKETS

HIGH STREET: 9AM - 3PM EVERY SATURDAY

BLIGH'S MARKET: 9AM - 4PM EVERY SATURDAY

BUCKHURST LANE: 8AM - 2PM EVERY WEDNESDAY



Give it a Grow

and grow something you can eat and share

The aim this year is to support Mayor Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet and her green initiative to get more people interested in gardening, supporting wildlife and helping the community to protect the local green environment.

The green initiative will have benefits for all the community

Healthy Living
Learning Together
Wellness and Therapy
Growing your Own
Making new Friends
Protecting our Green Spaces

How you can Help

Promote the Mayor's Green Initiative
Encouraging more volunteers to get involved
Help us start a 'Friends Group' for your local public open space/park
Growing and planting edible fruit, vegetables, flowers and herbs
Growing local = less food miles

Sharing your Knowledge

Arranging local groups in your road and neighbourhoods to garden together and celebrate nature
Plant a tree/hedge to increase habitat and reduce pollution

Want to Volunteer?

If you want to volunteer please register with Sevenoaks Town Council via OSL@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or 01732 459953 so that arrangements can be made for coordinating planting, clearing away debris, creation of Friends Group and anything else you may wish to contribute to the 'Give it a Grow' project.



Sevenoaks
Town Council
01732 459 953
council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Community Grants 2022/23

Would your community group benefit from a financial grant from the Town Council?



Visit: www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk or contact council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk for more info

Application forms to be sent to council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or
Sevenoaks Town Council, Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 3QG
by 2nd Friday in August or 2nd Friday in January



Town Crier is produced in-house by Sevenoaks Town Council to inform local residents about the work of the Council.

towncrier@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

01732 459953

Sevenoaks Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 3QG

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Sevenoaks Town Christmas Lights Switch-on



A huge thank you to all our wonderful sponsors!
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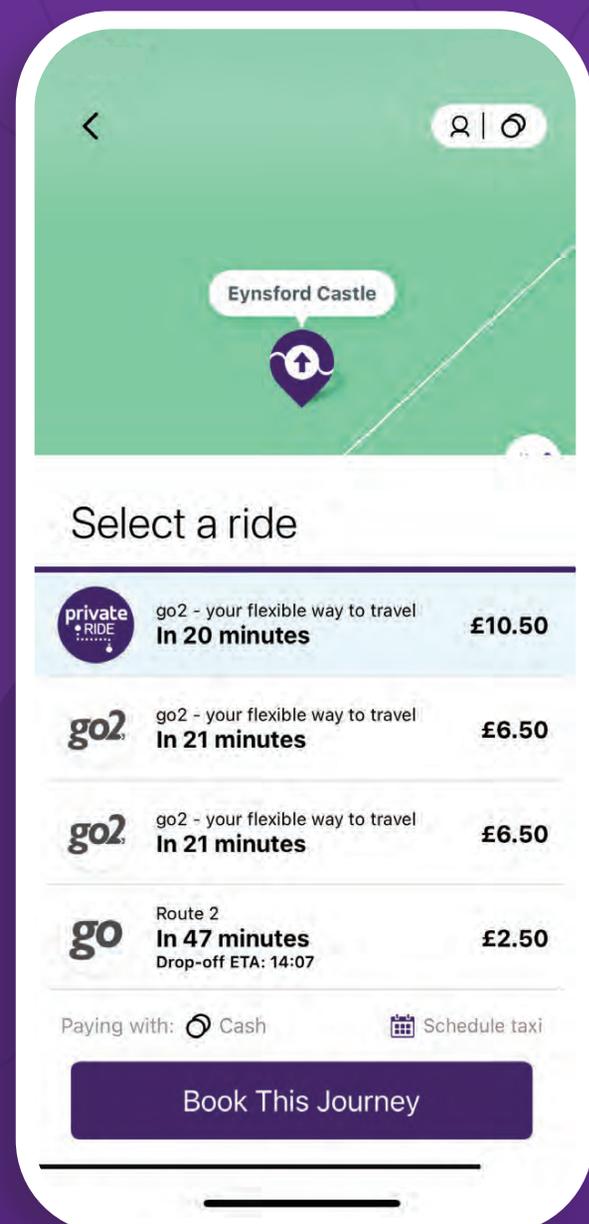
One mobile app, three different ways to travel.

Use the **Go2 Sevenoaks** mobile app to choose between a variety of local transport options. Once you input your origin and destination addresses, the app will display all available modes of transport, as well as the journey time and price for each.

1. Check **Go** bus route timetables and buy tickets.
2. Book **Go2** shared demand-responsive trips.
3. Book **Go2** direct private taxi trips.

www.go2now.co.uk

Download the **Go2 Sevenoaks** app to get started.



Functions & Facilities provided by Sevenoaks Town Council

Precept

Sevenoaks Town Council's total revenue budget for the 2021/22 financial year is £1,858,154 per annum. The average Band D house would pay £128.50 per annum equating to £2.47 per week.

OPEN SPACES & LEISURE

- ALLOTMENTS:
Bradbourne Vale Road
Quaker's Hall Lane
- BETHEL ROAD BURIAL GROUND
- BRITTAINS COMMON
- BRITTAINS LANE WOOD
- THE GREEN, HILLINGDON RISE
- HANGING BASKETS
- HORSE TROUGHS (*Old Police Station, Rheinbach Gardens, St Botolph's Road*)
- JUDD'S PIECE
- LAND AT:
Letterbox Lane
Littlewood
Tonbridge Road
- MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)
- MIDLINGS WOOD
- MILLPOND WOOD
- PLANTERS (*The Shambles, Dorset Street, Pembroke Road, London Road, Buckhurst Lane*)
- THE POUND, POUND LANE
- RALEY'S FIELD & KNOLE PADDOCK
- RHEINBACH GARDENS
- SEVENOAKS COMMON
- SPORTS PITCHES
- UPPER HIGH STREET GARDENS
- VINE CRICKET GROUND & PAVILION
- VINE GARDENS
Public toilet, telephone kiosk with defibrillator
- WAR MEMORIAL

- WHITE HART BEECHES
- WOODSIDE ROAD OPEN SPACE

CAR PARKS

- RALEYS CAR PARK

PLAY AREAS

- BUCKHURST LANE PLAY AREA
- GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND & PLAYGROUND
- HILLINGDON RISE PLAY AREA
- JULIANS MEADOW & PLAYGROUND
- KIPPINGTON MEADOW
- MOUNT CLOSE OPEN SPACE & PLAYGROUND
- PONTOISE CLOSE OPEN SPACE & PLAYGROUND

SERVICES

- BAT & BALL CENTRE
(formerly Sevenoaks Community Centre)
Available for hire: meetings, conferences etc.
- BAT & BALL STATION BUILDING (*including Café and rooms available to hire*)
batandballstation.com
- CAFÉ ON THE VINE cafeonthevine.com
- CONSULTEES (*Planning, Highways, etc.*)
- GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS
- GREATNESS PARK CEMETERY
- HOUSE IN THE BASEMENT (HITB) YOUTH CAFÉ (*available for hire*)
- INFO-PODS & DIGITAL DISPLAY SCREENS
- LITTER BINS AND GRIT BINS
- MARKETS (*Wednesday and Saturday*)

- MASTERPLAN FOR NORTHERN SEVENOAKS
- NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN
- ORBITAL NO 8 BUS
- PUBLIC SEATS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS
- PUBLIC TOILETS (*The Stag, The Vine, Lower St Johns, Greatness Recreation Ground*)
- SEVENOAKS TOWN PARTNERSHIP
sevenoakstownpartnership.wordpress.com
- STAG COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE
Defibrillator in foyer
stagsevenoaks.co.uk
- STREET LIGHTS IN SOME UNADOPTED ROADS
- TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES/CHAMBER
Available for hire: meetings, conferences etc.

- TWINNING WITH PONTOISE AND RHEINBACH
- VINTAGE BUS
- YOUTH COUNCIL sevenoaksyouthcouncil.com

EVENTS

- ARMED FORCES DAY TOWN SUPPORTERS
- CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS IN TOWN
- CIVIC FUNCTIONS
- VINE BANDSTAND/FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

PROPERTY

- BUSINESS HUB (*former Red Cross Building*)
- BUS SHELTERS (*Dartford Road x1, Bradbourne Vale Road x2, London Road x2, Tonbridge Road x1*)
- JUBILEE CLOCK (*Old Market House*)
- WARREN CLOCK (*above Brewers*)

Town Councillors 2019-2023

| NAME | PARTY | NAME | PARTY |
|-------------------------|------------------|---|------------------|
| EASTERN WARD | | ST JOHNS WARD | |
| Cllr A S Clayton | Liberal Democrat | Cllr S Camp | Liberal Democrat |
| Cllr T Morris Brown | Liberal Democrat | Cllr R M C Hogarth | Conservative |
| Cllr E T Waite | Liberal Democrat | Cllr S G Raikes | Conservative |
| KIPPINGTON WARD | | TOWN WARD | |
| Cllr A Eyre | Conservative | Cllr K Bonin | Conservative |
| Cllr R J Parry | Conservative | Cllr N J L Busvine OBE | Conservative |
| Cllr R L Piper | Conservative | Cllr Lise Michaelides | Liberal Democrat |
| NORTHERN WARD | | WILDERNESSE WARD | |
| Cllr M Canet | Liberal Democrat | Cllr Mrs R E Parry | Conservative |
| Cllr V Granville-Baxter | Liberal Democrat | To contact a Sevenoaks Town Councillor, please use the following email format: Cllr.surname@sevenoakstown.gov.uk eg. to contact Councillor Eyre, the email address would be: Cllr.eyre@sevenoakstown.gov.uk | |
| Cllr C Shea | Liberal Democrat | | |

Town Clerk/Chief Executive:

Linda Larter MBE:

townclerk@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Deputy Town Clerk:

Ann White:

dtc@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

The Town Council or its Committees meet on most Monday evenings at 7pm and members of the public are welcome to attend. For further details of the meetings please contact the Town Council Offices on 01732 459953.

council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Sevenoaks
TOWN COUNCIL

